

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05645 131737Z

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 EA-06 NEA-07 SAB-01 INR-05 IO-03

H-01 PM-03 (ISO) W

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R 131710Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8764

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 5645

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF 428TH PRC MEETING, AUGUST 11, 1976

1. SRI LANKA CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES: AMBASSADOR GAVE BRIEF RESUME FOR GOVERNOR AND CINC OF PANAMANIAN REPRESENTATION AT THE CONFERENCE, GENERAL TORRIJOS' TRAVEL PLANS, AND HIS DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD PRIOR TO LATTER'S DEPARTURE. AMBASSADOR INFORMED PRC PRINCIPALS THAT GOP WOULD PROBABLY AIM FOR RESOLUTION ON PANCANAL ISSUE SIMILAR TO THE ONE AGREED UPON AT THE LIMA CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER '75. HE HAD COUNSELED BOYD AGAINST FULL-DRESS DEBATE PLAN AT UNGA DURING U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN AND SUBSEQUENT GOP PRONOUNCEMENTS INDICATED THAT PRESENTATION TO UNGA WILL BE DELAYED, UNTIL EITHER LATE '76 OR '77. AMBASSADOR ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF CANAL ISSUE REACHING A FLOOR FIGHT AT KANSAS CITY REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

2. PANAMA REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: GOVERNOR REPORTED THAT PANCANAL WOULD MAINTAIN COOPERATIVE STANCE WITH RESPECT TO FURNISHING TECHNICAL DATA REGARDING PANAMA'S REQUEST FOR PROJECT ASSISTANCE AT OLD FRANCE FIELD; HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT ANY ACTIVITY BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE MARCH '75 AGREEMENT REQUIRED THE CONCURRENCE OF BOTH
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 05645 131737Z

USG AND GOP.

3. BILL IN CONGRESS: GOVERNOR REPORTED PROPOSED CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRACTICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IN PANCANAL LOSS OF \$8.5 MILLION, CHARGED TO DEPRECIATION. BILL WAS PASSED IN HOUSE. PANCANAL OPPOSES IT AND IS LOBBYING FOR VETO. GOVERNOR RECOMMENDED THAT IF DECISION WAS TO SUBSIDIZE SHIPPING, THAT IT BE DONE SO DIRECTLY. HE ALSO REFERRED TO AUGUST 23 HEARING IN NEW YORK ON 19.5 PERCENT TOLLS INCREASE.

4. CODECA MEETING IN MANAGUA: CINC REPORTED HE WOULD ATTEND PROTOCOLARY FUNCTIONS OF CENTRAL AMERICAN DEFENSE MINISTERS' MEETING IN MANAGUA AUGUST 16-17.

5. 193RD MILITARY EXERCISES: CINC BRIEFED PRC PRINCIPALS ON PLANS DURING WEEK OF AUGUST 16 TO CONDUCT MILITARY EXERCISES RELATING TO CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND THAT PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO KEEP EXERCISES OUT OF PUBLIC EYE.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CANALS, MEETING REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PANAMA05645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760312-0431
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760856/aaaabwaj.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGHLIGHTS OF 428TH PRC MEETING, AUGUST 11, 1976
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006